

WAL WELCOME AWAITING TROOPS

Receptions to "Boys" of State Divisions to Be Greatest Ever

PLAN RIVER PAGEANT

No Limit to Extent of Demonstrations in Honor of 28th and 79th

The greatest demonstration in the history of Pennsylvania is promised by Governor Sproul in honor of the returning soldiers of the Iron Division—Pennsylvania's "Boys," the Twenty-eighth and the Seventy-ninth.

The celebration will be repeated when the Liberty Division returns, the Governor said in a statement today.

It is intended to see that the occasion something that will surprise Pennsylvania, he said. "We want two celebrations, too—one for the Iron Division, our own National Guard, and one for the men of the selective service who wrote their own glorious page."

"Personally I can say I am working hard on the plans right now and am going to see that the review and the return will mean the mightiest demonstration of which Pennsylvania is capable. The return itself is not a two divisions to this state, but a single stone returned to show those boys the love, the gratitude and the devotion they have given to their country, and the achievements they have accomplished with their arms, valor, bravery and courage."

Plans for greeting the 198th and 110th Infantry and the 108th Field Artillery—Philadelphia's regiments in the Twenty-eighth Division—are well under way. Several conferences between J. J. Jarden Guenther, secretary of the National Defense, and city officials and members of the welcome-home committee were held yesterday. Others are scheduled for today.

As the opening feature in the series of events that mark the return of the Keystone fighters to this city the Welcome Home Committee of Philadelphia is planning a big river pageant.

Mothers to Meet Boys Down River Announcement has been made that the mothers of returning soldiers will meet their boys both at the river and the committee, anxious to lend color to that spectacle, will organize a river festival.

If harbor officials find it possible to grant permission the returning fighters will be met by a fleet of harbor craft. These boats, ranging in size from a small motor launch to the palatial river steamers, will be decorated with bunting, flags and other festive decorations.

The plan of the Welcome Home Committee, to give soldiers' mothers pleasure in every way, is to come to the river, and the mothers of the boys who are returning are expected to meet them at the river.

Today J. J. Jarden Guenther, secretary of the committee, received a letter from a group of North Philadelphia mothers. They expressed their joy concerning the debarkation of their sons at this point in the following words:

"The mothers of the boys of the various detachments of the 198th Field Artillery, Twenty-eighth Division, wish to express our gratitude to you for your work in having the boys returned to us, and to agree to land our boys in Philadelphia. We will do all in our power to assist you in giving them a hearty welcome home."

This letter is signed by Mrs. D. C. Yoan, 7131 North Broad street; Mrs. M. A. Ritter, 7200 North Broad street; Mrs. B. Thomas, 7107 North Broad street, and Irene M. Ritter.

Plans Taking Definite Form John H. Mason, president of the "Welcome Home" committee, said today that plans for the great reception are taking definite form and that by another week the personnel of the reception committee would be completed.

"I propose," said Mr. Mason, "to make the reception a genuine affair of the people. First consideration will be given to the mothers of the returning soldiers, for they are deserving of every consideration. They made noble sacrifices in the war and will share the gratitude and thanks of the city and state in the reception that will be staged for their sons. Our committee will cooperate with the city and state officials, Pennsylvania's gallant sons will be given the greatest welcome ever accorded to American soldiers."

The first official meeting of the welcome home committee will be held next Friday. By that time Mr. Guenther hopes to learn the arrangements the War Department will expect the city to make to entertain and care for the Keystone Division.

General Beary is expected to make a survey of the port facilities here on Wednesday. He will confer with Director Webster regarding the utilizing of the municipal wharves and facilities for entraining the men after they have disembarked.

It is not expected that the first units of the division can arrive here before Friday, but the men are expected to arrive on May 15, but the officials are losing no time in planning the reception.

ENLIST EMBRY FARMERS

National Farm School Receives New Students for Spring The National Farm School, near Doylestown, Pa., is registering a new class of students, who are to be admitted to the school at once, in order to begin their studies in the fall of the farming season in the spring.

The National Farm School offers opportunity to worthy, energetic young men, irrespective of creed, giving them a three years' training in practical and scientific agriculture. The school is equipped with pure bred and grade dairy herds, horses, barns, pigsty, poultry, farm machinery, greenhouse, and laboratory. The studies are in charge of expert instructors and the household is in charge of a matron.

The course is open to boys between the age of sixteen and twenty-one years, who have completed a grammar school education, or who have an education equivalent thereto, and who are morally, mentally and physically fit, and who have a desire to follow agriculture as a life's work.

FIND GIRL'S BODY ON CAMDEN LOT; FOUL PLAY HINT

Discovery May Solve Disappearance of Young Stenographer, February 28

The body of a young woman was found today on the mansion in the vicinity of Browning road and Kalmia avenue, Camden. A pedestrian stumbled across the body shortly before noon while cutting across the marshes.

It is believed the body may be that of Marie Wade, twenty-four years old, a stenographer, 418 North Fourth street, Camden, who disappeared from her home February 28.

The Camden police and coroner thence hurried to the scene, and the body will be taken to the Camden morgue and an effort made to establish the identity positively.

It is not known whether the woman committed suicide or was a victim of foul play.

PERSHING PRAISES DEPARTING SOLDIERS

Philadelphian With Aviation Forces in France Quotes Commander's Tribute

"You are returning as a body of men who have achieved the greatest moral victory the world has ever known."

General Pershing paid this tribute to six thousand air service men at Romorantin, France, in the course of an address on March 5.

This compliment is mentioned in a letter from Sergeant Russell A. Thomas, of the United States aviation force, to a friend in Lansdale, Pa. Thomas, who was formerly a Philadelphia newspaperman, gave the following excerpt from General Pershing's address:

"The great military victory won by you men in France, and the part you so nobly carried out, make me the proudest commander of any army in the world. Next to the great victories of the world, almost as great—is the moral victory you have won in France. You men are returning to America—to you wives, to your sweethearts, to the women of America who have played such a magnificent part in the war. You are returning as a body of men who have achieved the greatest moral victory the world has ever known."

"This I consider the greatest of your achievements. Many things will be expected of you when you return to the States, but the controlling factor in our country, the result will be that America is about to enjoy the most prosperous era of civilization. To see you return to America, physically and morally fit for the duties of life, makes me the proudest man living."

Pershing was doing all in his power to return the American troops to the United States as fast as transportation could be arranged. He said that the plan of the flying forces highly satisfied him, and declared that the lead of the flying forces of the world.

HOME PROBLEM SERIOUS HERE

20,000 New Houses Needed, Says Operative Builders' Association

Fully 20,000 new houses are needed to solve the serious housing problem in this city, according to the Philadelphia Operative Builders' Association.

This alleged shortage of homes, and the statement that average building costs are now 65 per cent more than in 1918, are advanced as arguments against the Walker bill, aimed at rent control.

The Walker bill provides that when a rental increase regarded as excessive is demanded the tenant may appeal to the court for a hearing. If the hearing is held, the tenant is required to pay only the old rental and is secure from eviction.

The kernel of the housing problem, according to the speakers, is that rents have not increased in proportion to the costs of construction and that builders therefore hesitate to erect new dwellings.

BONFIRES TO CIRCLE WORLD

Boy Scouts Adopt Plan of Celebrating Peace

New York, March 28.—(By A. P.)—The suggestion of Sir Robert Baden Powell, head of the British Boy Scouts, that the millions of Boy Scouts throughout the world should celebrate peace by a world-wide chain of bonfires has been adopted by the Boy Scouts of America.

The 35,000 Boy Scouts in the United States will light great fires in all sections of the country on the night of the 29th and hold appropriate ceremonies.

LEGISLATURE HAS SPEED-UP PLANS

House Rules Committee Is Expected to Fix Adjournment Date in Few Days

REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Efforts to speed up the important work of the legislature were launched yesterday by the House Rules Committee, which is expected to fix the date for final adjournment.

Thursday, May 15, is the date tentatively fixed upon by Republican leaders for the closing of the 1919 session.

Governor Sproul's program of legislation will be virtually concluded with the introduction of an espionage act and certain amendments to the workmen's compensation law. The espionage act, drafted by Attorney General Shaffer, is expected to be introduced next week.

Three administration measures made their appearance this week. One reorganizes the State Police Department and puts under its jurisdiction the present Fire Marshal's Department. The bill increases the State Constabulary from four to five companies, provides for a detective bureau which would be at the service of the various county authorities and gives the state troopers authority to aid in fish and game protection, but does not make them game wardens.

The second bill creates a department of conservation, under which are consolidated the departments of fisheries, forestry, game commissioners and water supply. The third measure creates a bureau of topographic and geological survey and abolishes the present commission of that name.

The administration also proposes to get behind the Hess blue sky law, which is modeled after the Kansas law. Some amendments may be made to the bill after it has been examined by the Banking Department.

Under the guidance of the new House steering committee, which is headed by Representative William T. Ramsey, of Chester, the administration floor leader, the Sproul program will be speeded through the House as quickly as possible. In the Senate, the new administration whip in the upper chamber, will take charge of the Governor's measures.

Other measures of particular interest to Philadelphia were introduced this week. Representative Edwin R. Cox put in the bill advocated by Council's legislative committee, which provides for the return of the mercantile tax to counties in which it is collected.

Constitutional Amendments Cox also submitted two constitutional amendments, one to permit the city to purchase more land than it actually needs for improvement purposes, and the other to permit increased assessments on properties which increase in value because of the proximity of a public improvement.

Another bill introduced by Representative Cox would provide for the return by the state to the city of \$197,467.65 in taxes which was paid on the city of Johnstown at Gallego's request by the municipality. This bill was introduced by the city in order to validate the request.

A bill introduced by Representative Rich, which would amend the act to permit the sale of near beer without license. It provides that no license other than the mercantile license shall be required for the sale of beverages containing not more than one-half of 1 per cent alcohol.

The death of Senator Sterling R. Catlin and the prolonged hearing on the Philadelphia municipal bill hampered the work of the Legislature this week. Business adjourned Tuesday out of respect to the late Senator Catlin, and the charter hearing in the Senate chamber lasted so long that the Senate adjourned Tuesday night at 10 o'clock, had to be cut short.

The charter hearing was one of the big attractions of the session. Legislative action on the Philadelphia municipal bill was held in the Senate chamber and crowded into the Senate chamber to witness the fireworks. They were not disappointed, Senator Vane, in charge of the hearing, which had Winston, chairman of the charter revision committee, kept the ball going back and forth while the hearing was in progress.

No Charter Hearing Date Yet Senator Vane has not announced the date of the hearing for the opponents of the charter bill. Until the hearing is held no direct action on the measure, introduced by Senator George Wood, will be taken.

The defeat of the Horke bus law bill by the House Judiciary Special Committee occasioned no surprise. Representative Horke, sponsor of the measure, says he will make an effort to get the bill on the calendar by vote of the floor of the House. Falling in line, he plans to introduce a bill which would make no provision for Sunday operation of the bus.

Subsuffragists and anti-suffragists are expected to hold the center of the legislative spotlight next week. The public hearing on the Ramsey resolution for the hearing on the Ramsey resolution for the suffrage amendment to the constitution, is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon. Both the suffragists and the anti-suffragists are expected to take big delegations to Harrisburg for the hearing.

Some agreement on the Brady bill in Philadelphia is expected. The bill, along with two other measures affecting the registration laws, has been on the calendar for two weeks, but has been held up pending a conference of the leaders.

DRAFT BOARDS SHUT UP SHOP

State Selective Officials Ending Their Business Today

Harrisburg, March 28.—(By A. P.)—Every draft board in Pennsylvania is ending its business today. Under the orders of the War Department, the boards are to discontinue their work Monday, and for the last month they have been making up their final records.

The Burrows school in Lancaster was badly damaged and falling trees played havoc with trolley wires in the vicinity of Marietta, Pa. and shipping the records required to be dispatched to Washington.

Major number of the boards have notified the War Department, and the chief draft officers will send additional historical data for the chronicle of Pennsylvania's draft. The War Department today said of the draft boards:

POSTMAN BRINGS US A HELMET

The most popular of all battlefield trophies is an enemy trench helmet. It is one of the first objects the victorious Yank sees to add to his collection of overseas souvenirs.



The postoffice does not exact that the helmet be wrapped or boxed for delivery; the address and any necessary stamps pasted on the iron hat suffice to carry it through the mail. This one was received in the Evening Public Ledger office from Captain Walter Long, a former member of the staff, now serving with the American forces in France.

SCHWAB FINDS DOUGHBOYS HONEST IN PAYING LOANS

Tries Experiment of Lending 154 Negro Soldiers \$1 Each, and 138 Have Repaid Money—Sees No Hope for Bolshevism Here in Consequence

After lending a dollar apiece to 154 Negro-soldier dough boys who were "broke," and being paid back by 128 of them inside of two weeks, Charles M. Schwab is so convinced of the sanity and honesty of this country that he believes Bolshevism can never wreck it.

"I went up to him and said: 'What's the idea? Are you broke? I ain't seen no pay in five months.' 'Well, I'm going to loan you a dollar,' he said, 'and you needn't trouble about getting it back to me. That gave me an idea. I decided to test those men just for the fun of the experiment. I made it known that I was willing to help out any of the men who were broke and one hundred and fifty-four of them responded. To each I said something like this: 'Now you needn't trouble about getting it back to me. I know me and where I am at. Suit yourself.'"

"Up to date one hundred and thirty-eight of those boys have sent me the money they borrowed. It came out as I expected. The boys were sound to the core. That's one of the main reasons I'm not worrying about the United States going Bolshevist next election."

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NEW JERSEY TOWNS UNITE IN FARE FIGHT

Each to Be Asked to Give \$100 to Fund to Continue Battle

Representatives of the cities and towns in South Jersey who are fighting the plan to increase the trolley fares throughout the state gathered at Camden City Hall last night and formed a permanent organization to fight the proposed increase by the Public Service Railway Company. Camden has already voted \$1000 for a fund, and each town last night was asked to subscribe \$100 each as the starter for a financial battle to make a real battle.

The committee formed last night will be offered as follows: Councilman William S. Abbott, Camden, chairman; City Attorney Charles W. Letgus, Gloucester, secretary, and City Treasurer George A. Frey, Camden, treasurer. Experts will be engaged through the fund and they will prepare data to oppose the seven-cent fare at the next meeting of the Public Utilities Commission on April 14 at Newark.

The committee also voted to have a mass-meeting on Tuesday night next, when the representatives of every village, city and town in south Jersey affected by the proposed increase may have a chance to be heard and take common counsel on the proper methods to fight the Public Service Corporation, mayor in north Jersey, keeping them informed as to the progress of the battle in the southern section of the state.

OVERHAUL ALL ARMORIES

State Buildings to Be Made Fit for Returning Guardsmen

Harrisburg, March 28.—Orders have been issued for the State Armory Board to overhaul the forty-eight armories owned by the commonwealth, so that the returning soldiers of the Keystone Division if needed, and form headquarters for a new National Guard.

A survey was recently made of each of the buildings and at the meeting of the board at which contracts were let for three buildings and for repairs to two, it was ordered that all others be put into good condition. Some of the armories have been used by units of the reserve militia and others have been virtually taken by the guardsmen left for Camp Hancock in the summer of 1917.

It is the intention to take up organization of the new National Guard along the lines of the old division as soon as the Keystone men are mustered out.

GUARDSMAN PROMOTED

Charles Quarles, Grandson of Former Mayor, Elevated to Captaincy

Lieutenant Charles H. Quarles, grandson of former Mayor William B. Smith, was promoted to a captaincy, according to word which has been received from Harrisburg. Captain Quarles, after serving in the officers' training school at Camp Hancock, was promoted to a captaincy in the armistice he had seen service in combat units ever since arriving at the front, and he was promoted to a captaincy when he entered the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1915, serving on the Mexican border for six months as a member of the First Regiment.

FOOD IN 5 YRS. UP 61 TO 116 PER CENT

Bureau of Statistics Shows Average Prices Here Midway in Rise

Prices of foodstuffs in Philadelphia and other large cities throughout the country have increased since 1913 from 61 to 116 per cent, according to statistics gathered by the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Labor, and made public today.

In the case of seventeen of the principal articles of food, the advance in price in the last five years was more than 100 per cent, and more than 60 per cent in the case of ten other staple articles. These comparisons were made at the beginning of the present year.

During 1918, the general cost of living here increased 19 per cent over the general cost in 1917. In the comparative lists of food prices for several of the larger cities, Philadelphia stands highest in the rating. For example, sirloin steak, which is classed as the chief staple, sells for twenty-eight cents in Philadelphia, and sixty-five cents in Minneapolis, and sixty-five cents in Philadelphia. Everything considered, prices of food staples are lowest in Minneapolis, and highest in Philadelphia.

What Table Shows The tables compiled by the Bureau of Statistics show that since 1913, the year before the war, the price of an average sirloin steak has increased 61 per cent; pork chops, 104 per cent; a pound of ham, 101 per cent; roast beef, 69 per cent; round steak, 70 per cent; a pound of lard, 116 per cent; lamb, 86 per cent; chicken, 88 per cent; fresh eggs, 70 per cent per dozen; storage eggs, 83 per cent per dozen; milk, 72 per cent per quart; a pound loaf of bread, 75 per cent; flour, 100 per cent per pound; meat, 100 per cent; potatoes, 68 per cent per bushel, and sugar, 100 per cent.

Bacon is lowest at 54 cents in Buffalo and highest at 67 cents per pound in Los Angeles. Round steak reaches its lowest price level in San Francisco, where a pound sells for 23 cents, and is highest in Providence, where it brings 42 cents. Fresh eggs start at 49 cents per dozen in Minneapolis and are highest in Boston at 97 cents. Cheese ranges from 37 cents in Providence to 46 cents in Birmingham, while coffee is lowest in Minneapolis and New Orleans, where it is listed at 29 cents, and is highest in Boston, where it is 38 cents.

Butter is lowest at 13 cents in Atlanta, and highest in Boston, where it is 33 cents. In New York, milk, per quart, varies from 13 cents in Denver, Milwaukee and Minneapolis to 20 cents in Atlanta and Birmingham, while butter ranges from 67 cents in Providence to 77 cents in Cleveland. Ham is lowest in New Orleans, where the price is 51 cents, and highest in Los Angeles, where the price is 63 cents. Tea varies from 54 cents in New York to 75 cents in Atlanta.

In the price tables, which still in the unit except in the cases of milk, where it is the quart, and of eggs, where it is one dozen. The tables are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Items include Sirloin steak, Round steak, Rib roast, Chuck, Pork chops, Ham, Lamb, Pork, Bacon, Eggs (fresh), Eggs (storage), Butter.

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WOMEN TO STAY IN ALL INDUSTRIES

U. S. Employment Experts Say They Are Displacing Men

Records Satisfactory In Many Cases Employers Displaced Old Machinery for War-Time Workers

Women in industry have come to stay. Big employers of labor, who turned to women workers during the war industry, now refuse to replace them with the men released from the army and war industries.

The demand for women with some degree of training is greater than the supply in many lines. Although war bonuses and overtime have been discontinued, women's wages remain high—on about the same general level as during the war.

These statements are based on the records and everyday experiences of the experts in charge of the women's division of the United States Employment Service in this city, at 254-60 South Twelfth street.

Few Women are Displaced Miss Juliet R. Stackhouse, assistant to the federal director for women's work in Pennsylvania, and local chief of the service, said in an interview that the release of men from the army and from essential war work has had little effect on the employment of women.

"I have seen only two large employers of labor in this city," said Miss Stackhouse, "who are dropping their women help in favor of the men who are returning from the army."

"In many cases the factory management explain that they went to great expense during the war to install lighter machinery that could be operated by women. An instance where women largely replaced men in dyehouses. Women are not strong enough to handle the cylinders on which piece goods are wound. So the dyehouses were equipped with installed light cranes to lift these cylinders."

Mrs. Ethel Spalding Slater, examiner in charge of the service here, knows of many instances where manufacturers have expressed a preference for women, and for various reasons.

Applicants Reflect Low Wages Low wages paid men returning from army service have been reflected in applications for the women's division from wives of these men who lost their jobs in the service of their country, for part-time employment to help the men. The women's division between August 1 and December 31 of 1918, put 260,000 women in jobs in Pennsylvania.

Failure of the service here, known of funds for the continuance of appropriate training of the women's division throughout the United States left that organization so badly crippled that it had to be cut to a skeleton. The organization was severely dismembered in Philadelphia by the generosity of the war work council of the Young Women's Christian Association. The Y. W. C. A. has supplied the work in this city until June. By then it is hoped that Congress may have convened again and have remedied the failure to provide for the work at the last session.

Between January 1 and March 1 of this year 5800 women have been placed in positions by the office in this city. The staff has been reduced to twenty workers, less than half as many as were employed during the war.

The women's division has been a widespread impression, there is no lack of employment for women.

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WIFE DUE FOR SHOCK

Alleged First Spouse of Reputed Embezzler Reaches Here Today

Stuart's wife, Mrs. Stuart, is alleged to be the wife of the man who is alleged to have embezzled \$100,000 from the Houston, Tex., and is confronted by Mrs. Stuart's lawyer.

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FRIENDS' YEARLY MEETING

Annual Program Is Planned at Session Today

Ministers and elders of the Orthodox Friends' Yearly Meeting met this morning at the Arch Street Meeting House and discussed plans for the yearly meeting, which opens Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

Business sessions will be held at the meeting, which will be held at the Arch Street Meeting House. A report of the American Friends' Reconstruction Unit will be submitted at the opening session Monday. This unit, in conjunction with the English Friends' war victims relief committee, has carried on reconstruction work in the war-torn areas of Europe since 1914.

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